

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 AF-10
ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 EPAE-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00
AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-08
SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-02 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-10 INT-05
JUSE-00 L-03 NSF-02 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-05
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E.O. 11652:NA
TAGS: PLOS
SUBJECT: LOS PLENARY SESSIONS:MARCH 31-APRIL 3

BEGIN SUMMARY. FRIDAY MARCH 31 PLENARY SESSION ENDED IN
DESULTORY INDECISION WITH THE ACTING PRESIDENT PLANNING TO
CONTINUE TO SEEK WAYS TO RESOLVE THE PRESIDENTIAL CRISIS.
AN APRIL 1 (SATURDAY) PLENARY SESSION WAS CANCELLED ON THE
DAY. AN EXTENDED PLENARY MEETING ON APRIL 3 RESULTED IN
NO CHANGE OF THE REGIONAL GROUP POSITIONS AND SLIM PROS-
PECTS FOR A SATISFACTORY END TO THE MAIN ROADBLOCK TO
BEGINNING SUBSTANTIVE CONFERENCE WORK. AVOIDANCE OF A
POTENTIALLY CONFERENCE-SPLITTING VOTE WAS A MAJOR THEME
OF THE APRIL 3 MEETING AT WHICH THE WEO GROUP PROPOSED
CREATION OF A SMALL NEGOTIATING GROUP UNDER THE
ACTING PRESIDENT'S AEGIS TO CONTINUE THE TALKS ON THE
PRESIDENTIAL QUESTION. THE PLAN WAS ACCEPTED BY THE
REGIONAL GROUPS ON APRIL 4 AND THE AREA REPRESENTATIVES
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REMAINED CLOSETED WITH THE ACTING PRESIDENT THROUGHOUT THE
DAY. END SUMMARY.

1. EXTENDED AND OFTEN HEATED PLENARY SESSIONS MARCH 31 -
APRIL 3 HAVE BROUGHT THE CONFERENCE ONLY marginally CLOSER
TO A RESOLUTION OF THE ISSUE OF WHETHER AMERASINGHE IS TO
CONTINUE AS PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE. THE LATINs REMAIN

ADAMANTLY OPPOSED; THE ASIANS AND AFRICANS IN FAVOR. THERE ARE NOW AT LEAST SIX MOTIONS AND PROPOSALS CIRCULATING:

--THE ASIAN AND THE AFRICAN GROUPS SUPPORT THE CONTINUATION OF AMERASINGHE AND ARE WILLING TO PUSH THE ISSUE TO A POTENTIALLY DIVISIVE VOTE.

--THE LATIN AMERICAN GROUP (LAG) INSISTS THE RULES OF PROCEDURE REQUIRE THE PRESIDENT TO BE AN ACCREDITED MEMBER OF A PARTICIPATING DELEGATION. SINCE AMERASINGHE IS NO LONGER ON THE SRI LANKA (OR ANY OTHER) DELEGATION HE HAS, THEREFORE, CEASED TO BE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE. THEY HAVE RAISED THE SPECTER THAT IF AMERASINGHE WERE CONTINUED IN OFFICE AS PRESIDENT IN VIOLATION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE, THERE WOULD BE A QUESTION OF THE LEGALITY OF HIS ACTIONS IN THAT CAPACITY WITH UNKNOWN IMPLICATIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE. ANOTHER ASIAN CANDIDATE WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE.

--THE WEO AND EASTERN EUROPEAN GROUPS SUPPORT AMERASINGHE AS THE PRESIDENT BUT VERY MUCH WANT ANY DECISION ON THIS ISSUE TO BE TAKEN BY A CONFERENCE CONSENSUS.

--MEXICO HAS PROPOSED THAT ALL DECISIONS ON THE PRESIDENCY MUST BE TAKEN BY A CONSENSUS.

--FRANCE, AS THE WEO CHAIRMAN, PROPOSED ON APRIL 3 THE FORMATION OF A NEGOTIATING GROUP UNDER THE ACTING PRESIDENT WITH THREE REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH REGIONAL GROUP. THIS WEO PROPOSAL WAS ACCEPTED BY THE REGIONAL GROUPS ON APRIL 4 AND THE SPECIAL NEGOTIATING REPRESENTATIVES REMAINED UNCLASSIFIED

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CLOSETED WITH THE ACTING PRESIDENT THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

2. THE PLENARY DEBATES HAVE BEEN PUNCTUATED BY NUMEROUS STRONG INTERVENTIONS AND POINTS OF ORDER BUT NO SHIFT IN THE ENTRENCHED REGIONAL GROUPS' POSITIONS. THE SOVIETS HAVE REITERATED THEIR OPPOSITION TO ANY VOTING ON THE PRESIDENTIAL ISSUE AND HAVE INSISTED THAT IT BE RESOLVED BY A CONSENSUS.

3. THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES OFFERED TO PLACE AMERASINGHE ON ITS DELEGATION THUS POSSIBLY MAKING MOOT THE LATINS' LEGALISTIC OBJECTION TO AMERASINGHE'S QTE PRIVATE STATUS UNQTE. ALTHOUGH AMERASINGHE HAD DECLINED AN EARLIER UAE OFFER THERE ARE INDICATIONS HE MAY NOW RE-CONSIDER. HE HAS NO INTENTIONS OF RESIGNING AS OF NOW AND ALTHOUGH HE FAVORS REAFFIRMATION BY A CONSENSUS HE IS PREPARED TO SEE THE CONFERENCE VOTE TO REACH A DECISION.

4. A PLENARY MEETING IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY MORNING APRIL 5 TO DISCUSS THE RESULTS OF THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE ACTING PRESIDENT'S NEGOTIATING GROUP.

5. HOW AND WHEN THE ISSUE OF THE PRESIDENCY WILL BE RESOLVED IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT AT THIS TIME. WE WILL REPORT ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE SITUATION AS SOON AS THERE APPEARS TO BE SOME POSITIVE MOVEMENT.

6. START OF SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN BLOCKED BY THE INSISTANCE OF THE ASIAN AND AFRICAN GROUPS THAT THE BUSINESS OF THE CONFERENCE CANNOT REPEAT CANNOT COMMENCE UNTIL THE ISSUE OF THE PRESIDENCY IS RESOLVED.
RICHARDSON

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